Job Fair with Black Ties Staffing

More than 60 participants in Southwest Solutions’ workforce development programs came out for a special job fair with Black Ties Staffing, which was formatted to help with the Detroit Auto Show.

“Everyone makes mistakes, but they need an opportunity to learn and improve their lives,” said Angel Reyes at the Black Ties Staffing event.

“With the impressed with the quality of the job candidates who came to the job fair,” said Roberto Kerr, accounting manager at Black Ties Staffing, who reviewed the resumes of all the applicants. “Not only will we offer short-term employment to almost everyone I saw, but we also hope to bring them in for opportunities in the future.”

The applicants at the job fair came from four Southwest Solutions’ programs: Supported Employment Services, Earn and Learn, Veterans Employment Services, and Detroit Greenways Solutions.

In golf, an eagle is two under par for the round. Scoring an eagle is always crave for celebration for the individual golfer, news, thanks to an innovative charity, it is now a possibility for the future.”

“Community Schools is not a program, it is an initiative at Southwest Solutions. It is based on an educational philosophy that envisions schools as neighborhood places that help address the multiple needs of the families they serve. Schools must become places that help address the serious needs that may compromise and facilitate services that can benefit and their families are experiencing,” said Ines DeJesus, who works at Bennett Elementary School.

If so, please email Janette Rodriguez at jrodriguez@swsol.org.
“Community Schools focus on the whole child”

The array of resources and services provided by Bennett Community Schools depends on what families need and what the school can accommodate. The school includes early childhood health services, mental health services, educational support, mentoring and supportive services, early childhood education programs, and other programs and services that support children and families. Bennett Community Schools have shown promising results in Cincinnati and other cities. Academic performance, attendance, parental involvement, school safety, and other important measures have significantly improved.

The DPS Community Schools model is inspired by the Pathways to Promise program developed by Michigan Department of Human Services (MDHS) Pathways to Promise, and MDHS caseworkers in schools to help families achieve greater sufficiency and access benefits like food stamps, cash assistance, Medicaid, children, elderly, and more. These caseworkers are known as suicide coaches. The Pathways program funded the first 55 schools. Bennett Community Schools coordinator Norma Galen said that the success coach learns the coordination of the needs coaches.

This trend was evident in the case of the Bennett parent who was shot. The success coach at Bennett Nicole Pringle, the Community Schools coordinator at Norma Galen. Nicole and Norma met with the parent at the school and at her home. Nicole helped the parent secure important health and economic benefits available through the State. Norma worked with the parent on building a support network that could help the family. Together, Nicole and Norma worked to get her children back in school, although it was a difficult and stressful time and ongoing effort.

Erica Nixon with her sons (left) and (center) at Earhart.

Quiana Brown (left), Community Schools site coordinator at Earhart, the philosophy of Community Schools has developed into a culture that is shared in the fall of 2011. Earhart is a K-6 school and 345 students across from Clark Park. The school provides a wealth of opportunities and services to create a welcoming and vibrant place. At Earhart, the Community Schools model encourages students and community members.

Donors bring holiday cheer to families in need

At the holiday party for the Early Childhood Mental Health Program, families of children served by the program received gifts made possible to us by our Waterman resident office Center for Children, Youth and Families; or those impacted by our Waterman outpatient clinic or our Whitdel, a Southwest Solutions program. On Sunday, January 19, Freddie Harris was honored with a "Phoenix" award. The award recognizes individuals who have persevered through extraordinary circumstances to accomplish extraordinary things. Certainly, Freddie exemplified this kind of journey. In Freddie’s words, “It has been a long journey and I often feel like a nomad. This journey has come to an end, so I am ready for a new journey ahead."

While Freddie spoke at the Go-Getters program, spoke after Freddie. At the holiday party, Freddie spoke after his friend, Freddie Harris.

Freddie's" success story

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Community Solutions 2

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Community Solutions 2

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Erica Negron with her sons Ivan (left) and a community. 

Community Schools have shown promising results in Cleveland and other cities. Academic performance has improved for students and their families. Earlston also broke one of the highest percentages of any DPS school.

“Community Schools focus on the whole child”

The array of resources and services provided through Community Schools depends on what families need and vary from school to school. They may include mental health services, housing assistance, childcare, preschool and early childhood development training, parenting skills, youth development activities, mentoring and tutoring, adult literacy and ESL, career development, technology skills, financial literacy counseling, and more.

All Community Schools emphasize real-world learning, expanded learning opportunities, parental and family engagement, and results-based evaluation.

The model encourages partnerships with organizations, businesses and other groups to enhance opportunities for students, families and community members.

Nicole Clark, 3rd grade parent, at the Detroit Youth Leadership Academy. Ms. Clark was able to receive a beautiful gift box for her family;

Donors bring holiday cheer to families in need

At the holiday party for the Early Childhood Mental Health Programs, children of families served by the program received gifts made possible by our Waterman quadrant city of Midtown Arts. Nicole Clark, who cares for her children, said she was “thrilled” to receive the gifts.

Freddie J. Harris

On Sunday, January 19, Freddie Harris was honored with a “Towering Phoenix” award. The award recognizes individuals who have persevered through extraordinary adversity to accomplish exceptional things. Certainly, Freddie exemplified this kind ofstance. By Freddie’s own admission, his journey has come to an end, so suddenly and much too early.

Freddie was found dead in his apartment in southwest Detroit on Friday, October 18. The circumstances of his death are still under investigation.

Freddie, who was born in Detroit on August 20, 1962, attended Lancer High School. As a student at Lancer, Freddie was not only a talented artist but also a dedicated student. He was known for his exceptional mathematical skills and his ability to solve complex problems.

However, Freddie faced a significant struggle in his life. He was diagnosed with schizophrenia at a young age, which greatly impacted his daily life. Despite these challenges, Freddie persevered and continued to pursue his passion for art.

Freddie’s art was a form of self-expression, a way for him to cope with the challenges he faced. He created intricate, detailed drawings that reflected his unique perspective on the world. His works were often characterized by their vivid colors and bold lines, capturing the essence of his personality and determination.

Freddie was known for his kind and generous nature. He always had a smile on his face and was always willing to lend a helping hand to those in need. He was a true inspiration to many and his legacy will continue to live on through his art and the memories he left behind.

Freddie’s family and friends were deeply saddened by his passing and honored him in various ways. A memorial service was held at the Southwest Community Center, where friends and family gathered to celebrate Freddie’s life.

“Freddie brought joy to so many lives,” said one of his closest friends. “He had a way of making everyone feel special and loved.”

Freddie’s family established a scholarship in his honor to support students pursuing art education. They also set up a GoFundMe page to raise funds for Twilight House, a shelter for homeless women and children, which Freddie had a strong connection to.

Freddie’s legacy continues to inspire others to follow their dreams and never give up, no matter how challenging the road may be. His art and his life serve as a reminder that even in the darkest of times, hope and inspiration can be found.
Erica Negron with her sons Ivan (left) and Railey (right)

The array of resources and services provided through Community Schools depends on what families need and want. They may include mental health services, housing assistance, childcare, preschool, early childhood development training, parenting skills, youth development activities, mentoring, and adult literacy and ESL, career development, technology skills, financial literacy, community organizing, and more.

All Community Schools emphasize real-world learning, expanded learning opportunities, parental and family involvement, and a whole child approach to education. The model encourages collaboration with other partners and businesses in the community to enhance opportunities for students, families and community members.

Community Schools have shown promising results in Cleveland and other cities. Academic performance improved, chronic absences decreased, and suspensions were reduced.

Quita Brown (left), Community Schools site coordinator at Earhart

The Pathways to Promise program was designed by Michigan Department of Human Services (MDHS) Pathways to Promise teams in 2011 to help families achieve greater self-sufficiency and access benefits like food stamps, cash assistance, Medicaid, child care, and more. These caseworkers are known as 'succeSS' workers.

The Pathways program funded the Community Schools coordinator position in schools that had been selected as focus schools. The coordinator’s role is to ensure that the success coach teams with the coordinators at each school to coordinate the wrap-around services and resources for families of students.

The success of the Community Schools model is measured by the Pathways to Promise program which was implemented by MDHS Pathways to Promise teams in 2011. Pathways to Promise teams work with caseworkers in schools to help families achieve greater self-sufficiency and access benefits like food stamps, cash assistance, Medicaid, child care, and more. These caseworkers are known as ‘succeSS’ workers.

Erica Negron has been attending Earhart for all three years that the school has been open. She is an active volunteer and she encourages her children to take full advantage of the activities that Earhart offers, including academic intervals, mentorship, sports, and arts.

I know that some of these opportunities are going to be very good for my kids. Because the school engages so many of my kids’ interests, it’s even more exciting for them to learn and they look forward to coming back.”

Erica Negron with her sons Ivan (left) and Railey

At the holiday party for the Early Childhood Mental Health Programs, children of families served by the program received gifts made possible by Southwest Solutions, the Michigan Alliance for Infant Mental Health and NI-AIMH.

Donors bring holiday cheer to the homeless or formerly homeless children. This year, Freddie lost his battle to his rare illness, but he left behind a legacy of hope and inspiration. He lived for his art and his desire to help others. He was determined to keep the money. We used it to buy the best for his friends who came to get their gifts.

For more information, contact Janette at 313-297-1372 or jrodriguez@swsol.org.

Freddy was a talented, well taught artist and a gentle soul. He handmade over 200 drawings for the躺着的儿童, a Southwest Solutions apartment building in southwest Detroit. Freddy was 11.

Freddy’s health began to take a turn for the worse, and he was hospitalized for several days just after the New Year. In the hospital, Freddy expressed a strong wish to see one more drawing made before he died. His father told him that we would do our best to make that happen.

Has been a difficult winter to start the year, but I am trying to keep the money. We used it to buy the best for the people who came to get their gifts.

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“Everyone makes mistakes, but they need an opportunity to learn and improve their lives.”

The ideal for the job fair was initiated by, among others, Bobo Partida, both of whom are employees under our Support Employment Program. Last year, Robo and Manuel placed ten program participants with Black Ties Staffing job opportunities.

“Our community partners are essential to our success and we are grateful for their support,” said Roberta Sam, account manager at Black Ties Staffing, who reviewed the resumes and interviewed job seekers at the job fair.

Black Ties Staffing is based in Royal Oak and offers short-term employment to people, and this is a great chance to do different things and meet new people,” said Robin. “Though we work afterwards,” said Robin. “I like the experience and it was helpful for the job seekers. The job seekers were very nice and helpful and we had a great turnout.”

The program has raised $178,000 in the past two years. Every dollar raised goes to nonprofit organizations helping the poor, the elderly, and others in need, such as the American Red Cross, United Way, and many other organizations.

Eagles for Children

The Eagles for Children program has raised $178,000 in the past two years. Every dollar raised goes to nonprofit organizations helping the poor, the elderly, and others in need, such as the American Red Cross, United Way, and many other organizations.

Community Schools Program

Community Schools model gathers partners and supporters to help students and families succeed

Eagles for Children

In golf, an eagle is two under par for the round. Scoring an eagle is always chosen for celebration for the individual golfer. However, thanks to an innovative charity, it is now being celebrated by the Early Head Start program of Southwest Solutions.

The charity is called Eagles for Children and includes a golf club in the area participating in the effort to help disadvantaged children in Detroit. Each club member donates a minimum of $50 to the Early Head Start program. Program coordinators help secure programs and services that can improve the early learning and success of children ages 0–3 enrolled in Early Head Start.

The U. S. Department of Health and Human Services requires screenings of children ages 2-3 enrolled in Early Head Start programs. Unfortunately, many pediatric offices, particularly those in metro Detroit, do not participate in the screening process. However, in Detroit, the Early Head Start program participates and partners with the Boys and Girls Club to provide screenings.

The ability to have our Early Head Start program participate in the screening process has allowed us to reach more families and improve the early learning of children ages 0–3. We are able to offer assistance and resources to families who need help.

The program has raised $178,000 in the past two years. Every dollar raised goes to nonprofit organizations helping children in need.

A single mother of two students at Bennett Elementary in southwestern Detroit saw her child’s health improve and her health issues remain. Their family was in danger even before the shooting because of economic stress and other pressing issues. With all these problems to endure, how can the children possibly focus on their education?

This situation is a dramatic example of the challenge that Detroit Public Schools and their families are experiencing. The Early Head Start program and the Boys and Girls Club are able to provide screenings and help families understand the importance of early intervention and healthy development.

The ability to have our Early Head Start program participate in the screening process has allowed us to reach more families and improve the early learning of children ages 0–3. We are able to offer assistance and resources to families who need help.

Aaliyah Nichols receives a vision screening at our EHS center.

The program has raised $178,000 in the past two years. Every dollar raised goes to nonprofit organizations helping children in need.
Job Fair with Black Ties Staffing nets 5716 jobs

In golf, an eagle is two under par for the round. Scoring an eagle is always cause for celebration for the individual golfer, new to an innovative charity, it’s now celebrated by the Early Head Start program at Southwest Solutions.

The charity is called Eagles for Children. Five golf clubs in the area participate in the effort to help educationally disadvantaged children in metro Detroit. Each club member pledges to donate at least $20 for every eagle scored by members at their golf club.

Eagles for Children

In this difficult context, improving academic outcomes requires rethinking how schools operate. Schools must become places that help the medium needs of the families they serve.

Community Schools, which began in 21 DPS schools last year, is a promising model that has been making a difference in other urban school districts in the country. The model is based at the respective school. At Bennett Elementary, Munger Elementary-Middle School, Earhart Elementary-Middle School, and Earhart Elementary-Middle School, Community Schools are a key partner at Southwest Solutions is a key partner at eight DPS Community Schools. As at five of these schools – Bennett Elementary, Earhart Elementary-Middle School, Harris Elementary School, Merger Elementary-Middle School, and Whitmer High School – Community Schools model gathers partners and staff to help students and families succeed.